

ASSOCIATED
PRESS

JANUARY 11, 1962

FIRST LEAD CARDINAL

BOSTON, JAN 11 (AP)-RICHARD CARDINAL CUSHING, ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON WHO DISCLOSED YESTERDAY HE RAISED \$1 MILLION TO HELP LIBERATE CUBAN INVASION PRISONERS, SAID TODAY HE IS WILLING TO GO TO CUBA TO INTERCEDE FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS STILL HELD THERE.

THE CATHOLIC PRELATE TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE HE IS WILLING TO GO PERSONALLY TO INTERCEDE FOR THE AMERICAN PRISONERS IF HE IS INVITED BY FIDEL CASTRO.

HE SAID, TOO, HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO INTERCEDE BY MEMBERS OF THE PRISONERS' FAMILIES. HE SAID THEIR APPEALS FOLLOWED "IN THE LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT I COLLECTED THE MONEY FOR THE RELEASE OF THE CUBAN PRISONERS."

THE CARDINAL SAID HE PRESUMED CASTRO WILL LEARN OF "MY INTEREST IN THE AMERICAN PRISONERS. I WOULD NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT HIM IN THIS MATTER. I WILL GO TO CUBA IF HE INVITES ME."

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MILLION DOLLARS HE SAID HE HAD \$200,000 ON HAND WHEN ATTY. GEN. ROBERT KENNEDY TELEPHONED HIM FOR HELP.

"I WAS SAVING THE MONEY UNTIL I WAS SURE IT WOULD BE USED FOR THE PURPOSE INTENDED." HE SAID THE ADDITIONAL \$800,000 WAS RAISED THROUGH SMALL CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE CARDINAL SAID HE WOULD NOT GIVE THE NAMES OF ANY CONTRIBUTORS BECAUSE HE KEPT NO RECORDS. HE ADDED THERE WERE NO GREAT SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND THAT NONE OF THE MONEY CAME FROM ANY FOUNDATION."

HE SAID HE CONTACTED WEALTHY PEOPLE IN LATIN AMERICA AND MANY MANY CONTRIBUTED.

THE CARDINAL SAID MANY BOSTON PRIESTS CONTRIBUTED AND HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE THREE CATHOLIC PRIESTS AMONG THE PRISONERS.

THE PRELATE SAID HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED ALSO TO INTERCEDE FOR RICHARD FECTEAU, 31, WHO IS HELD A PRISONER IN CHINA. FECTEAU'S HOME IS IN LYNN, MASS.

HE SAID HE IS WILLING TO DO ALL HE CAN BUT THAT HE LACKS CONTACTS IN THE ORIENT.

COMMENTING ON THE ILL-FATED INVASION OF CUBA THE CARDINAL SAID HE BELIEVED IF THE UNITED STATES HAD JOINED DIRECTLY IN THE INVASION IT COULD HAVE LOST THE FRIENDSHIP OF TWO OF THE BIGGEST NATIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA, BRAZIL AND VENEZUELA.

THE CARDINAL 2ND GRAF PVS A25

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA
FOIA b3 b6 75-00001R000300170011-5